

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 181751  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /087 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON  
APPROVED BY ARA:WSTEDMAN  
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS  
EUR/SPAIN:MDURKEE

-----060569 031140Z /10

R 031130Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS ROUTINE  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO ROUTINE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON ROUTINE  
AMCONSUL BELIZE ROUTINE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK ROUTINE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJECT: KING'S VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA: BELIZE DISPUTE

1. IN CONSULTATIONS WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT REGARDING  
KING'S VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO  
DRAW ON FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING BELIZE DISPUTE.

2. U.S. ROLE: THE UNITED STATES SPONSORED AN ACTIVE  
MEDIATION EFFORT IN 1965-1968. IT WAS REJECTED BY BOTH  
SIDES. SINCE THEN WE HAVE AVOIDED A MIDDLEMAN ROLE. WE  
ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT, WE ARE IN CONSTANT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 181751

AND CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES ON THIS, AND WE HAVE  
COUNSELED FLEXIBILITY AND MODERATION TO BOTH SIDES.

3. THERE IS HIGH LEVEL WASHINGTON INTEREST IN THE BELIZE  
DISPUTE. SECRETARY VANCE AND OTHER HIGH DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIALS MET SEPARATELY WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BRITISH  
AND GUATEMALAN DELEGATIONS, DURING JULY 6-7 NEGOTIATIONS.

PRESIDENT CARTER AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ DISCUSSED THE MATTER BRIEFLY DURING PEREZ' STATE VISIT.

4. THE TENSIONS WHICH BUILT UP IN ANTICIPATION OF THE JULY 6-7 NEGOTIATING ROUND HAVE NOW DIMINISHED. BRITISH

MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROWLANDS' VISIT TO GUATEMALA JULY 26-28 HELPED. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO A POSITIVELY WORDED COMMUNIQUE, AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE.

5. THE MAJOR STICKING POINT REMAINS THE ISSUE OF TERRITORY. GUATEMALA DEMANDS AT LEAST A SLICE OF SOUTHERN BELIZE, ARGUING (PRIVATELY AT LEAST) THAT IT IS THE ONLY WAY INDEPENDENCE COULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE ARMY. ARMY SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO AMEND GUATEMALA'S CONSTITUTION, WHICH DECLARES BELIZE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY. A SLICE IN THE SOUTH WOULD ALSO GIVE GUATEMALA CONTROL OVER THE BAY OF AMATIQUE AND AN OPEN OUTLET TO THE CARIBBEAN.

6. AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS VISITING THE AREA IN EARLY AUGUST, AND WE BELIEVE THE ISSUE WILL BE RAISED AT A NUMBER OF STOPS.

7. WE WOULD WELCOME SPANISH EFFORTS TO COUNSEL MODERATION AND FLEXIBILITY TO THE GUATEMALANS, PARTICULARLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 181751

ON THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE, AND INDICATE SUPPORT FOR A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KING, DISPUTES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE181751  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DCJOHNSON  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770277-1300  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197708100/aaaadhop.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 59b88c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1401909  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KING'S VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA: BELIZE DISPUTE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, GT, UK, BH, US, (JUAN CARLOS I)  
**To:** MADRID  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/59b88c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009